

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Stephen P. Lee, Deputy County Attorney Mb6 そっらし

FROM:

Lynn Vouis, Assistant County Attorney

Ext. 5736

CONCUR:

Pam Hastings, Administrative Manager/Public Works Department

Kathleen Myer, Principal Engineer/Engineering Division

DATE:

October 17, 2003

SUBJECT:

Settlement Authorization

East Lake Mary Boulevard, Phase IIB

Parcel Nos.: 217/817

Owner(s): Alfredo & Indalecia Fornasier Seminole County vs. Hewitt Olson, et al.

Case No.: 2003-CA-2335-13-L

This Memorandum requests settlement authorization by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for Parcel Nos. 217/817 on the East Lake Mary Boulevard, Phase IIB project. The recommended settlement is at the total sum of SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$75,000.00), inclusive of all land value, severance damage, statutory interest, attorney's fees, and costs.

PROPERTY 1

Α. **Location Data**

The property is located at the southeast corner of paved Beardall Avenue and unpaved Bridges Road.

- Location Map (Exhibit A) (1)
- (2) Sketch (Exhibit B)

B. Street Address

The 4.6 acre parent tract is unimproved, and therefore it has no street address.

II AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE

The BCC adopted Resolution No. 2003-R-47 on February 11, 2003, authorizing the acquisition of Parcel Nos. 217/817, and finding that the East Lake Mary Boulevard Project was necessary and served a public purpose and was in the best interest of the citizens of Seminole County.

III ACQUISITIONS AND REMAINDER

The fee simple acquisition consists of 1.6750 acres acquired from the total parcel of 4.6804 acres, leaving a remainder of 3.0054 acres. The permanent drainage easement to be acquired is 1,452 square feet.

IV APPRAISED VALUES

The County's appraisal report was prepared by Ted Hastings, III, MAI of the Spivey Group. Inc., who opined a value of \$41,900 for the fee taking and \$700.00 for the drainage easement.

The owners did not have an appraisal performed; however, the owners retained Calhoun, Dreggors, and Associates for appraisal consultation.

V NEGOTIATION

The County extended a BCC approved, binding written offer to the property owners in the amount of \$53,000.00. The owners felt strongly that their property was being damaged by the reduction in size caused by the acquisition of over an acre. They originally wanted \$80,000.00, prior to retaining an attorney. They retained Thomas P. Callan of Thomas P. Callan, P.A., to represent them. Eventually, a negotiated settlement was achieved by the County's acquisition agents in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the property owners, exclusive of any fees and costs incurred.

VI ATTORNEY FEE AND COST REIMBURSEMENTS

Based on the settlement amount of \$70,000.00 to be paid to the property owners, the amount of attorney's fees mandated by statute is \$4,600.00. A negotiated payment amount of \$1,000.00 was agreed upon for appraisal consultation costs. As a result of negotiations with staff, Mr. Callan agreed to accept less than the statutory amount so that fees and costs together would total \$5,000.00.

VII ANALYSIS

By this settlement, the County avoids the following additional costs, beyond those for which it is already liable by law:

- A. A potential jury verdict in excess of the settlement sum;
- B. All statutory interest; and,
- C. Attorney's fees and costs to proceed further.

The settlement sum of \$75,000.00 includes all attorney fees and cost reimbursements. The settlement amount of \$70,000.00 to the property owner is \$17,000.00 more than the County's binding written offer. A complete analysis of the potential issues pertaining to the acquisition of this parcel by an appraiser, engineer, land planner, etc. would easily exceed the sum paid over the written offer. Settlement now for cost avoidance is advised.

VIII RECOMMENDATION

County staff recommends that the BCC approve this settlement in the amount of \$75,000.00, inclusive of all attorney's fees and costs.

Attachments:

- (1) Location Map (Exhibit A)
- (2) Sketch (Exhibit B)

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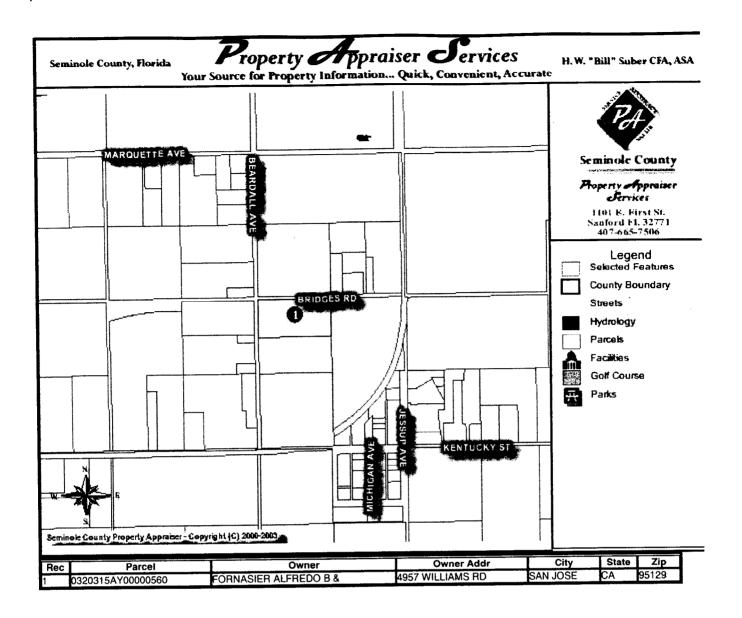


EXHIBIT A

